

**Federal Land Task Force Working Group
Special Meeting
October 28, 2003 @ 3:00 p.m.
Idaho Association of Counties Building
Boise, Idaho**

Minutes

Working Group Members Present:

Susie Borowicz (via phone)
Jeff Cilek
Gerald Schroeder
David Whaley

Others In Attendance:

For Perkins Coie LLP, consultant contractor to the Idaho Department of Lands/Idaho Board of Land Commissioners:

Buzz Fawcett
Bob Maynard
Laurie Lloyd, clerical support

Rep. Chuck Cuddy
Former Sen. Judi Danielson (via telephone)
Sen. Skip Brandt
Sen. Laird Noh

Andy Brunelle, USDA Forest Service
Jane Gorsuch, Intermountain Forest Association
Maggie Mahoney, Idaho Association of Counties
Pat McCoy, Capitol Press
Jay O'Laughlin, University of Idaho (*via telephone*)
Karen Williams, Idaho Cattle Association

Buzz Fawcett and Bob Maynard provided an update on current status and efforts to implement pilot projects adapted from the five recommended in the December 2000 Working Group report, and the Group discussed issues, updated circumstances and information regarding the various projects.

Current efforts remain focused on the Clearwater Basin Project, which is pending as H.R. 835 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Updated information and circumstances from the January 2003 elk summit meeting, May 2003 Nez Perce national forest summit meeting, recent Forest Service project proposals and appeals, Forest Health Initiative legislation, and other sources will be taken into account in pursuing this project.

Current efforts are also focused on the Twin Falls/Cassia County Project, for which Buzz and Bob are engaged in discussions with the BLM, Forest Service, and local proponents and stakeholders. Agency reorganization and co-location initiatives as well as updated drought and other resource issues will be addressed regarding this project.

There has been some interest and there may be some potential for a third pilot project derived from the Central Idaho Ecosystem Project, but this has only been preliminarily explored at this stage. There have been many changes in circumstances in the area since the Project was proposed—mill infrastructure, revised forest plans, etc.

It appears that the concepts in the St. Joe Ecosystem Stewardship Project may be adequately implemented through recent legislation expanding stewardship contracting authority, without the need for a specific pilot project.

The Priest Lake Basin Cooperative Project appears to be inactive, but there is progress being made in implementation of a stewardship contract pilot in the area. There may be opportunities for additional projects similar to the one being implemented.

The consultants will continue to coordinate with working group members on implementation efforts, issues, and information needs through e-mail and phone. No additional group meetings were scheduled at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at about 4:15 p.m.